Nuclear Accidents

2647. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that our Nuclear Power Plants have had 24 incidents in the last six years, as reported in "The Pioneer" dated the 24th September, 1994;

(b) whether any of these incidents was serious and, if so, the details thereof;

(c) how does this accident or incident rate compare with that in other nuclear power countries; and

(d) how far our radio isotopes are being used in the treatment of cancer; how far our sewage sludge hygienisation radiator could treat industrial effluents etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI): (a) and (b) Government is aware of the Pioneer report of 24.9.94 India has been participating in the system of reporting events in its nuclear power plants in the International Nuclear Event Scale (INES) of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). The events are rated in a scale of 1 to 7 with 0 or below scale being attributable to an event of no safety significance. Level 7 denotes a major accident. The total number of events reported to IAEA for inclusion in the INES during the four years (1990-94) was 139. Of these, 96 were at level 0 and have no safety significance. The number of events at level 1 were 42 and were considered as anomalies. There was no event rated at level 2 during the four year period. There was one incident at level 3, *viz.*, fire incident in electrical system in Narora Atomic Power Station. Indian nuclear power plants did not have a single accident during more than 100 reactor years.

(c) The incident rates in India are comparable to those in other countries with nuclear power programme.

(d) Radioisotopes supplied by Board of Radiation and Isotope Technology and used in the treatment of cancer are Cobalt-60, Iridium-192, Caesium-137 and Iodine-131.

During the year 1994, the quantity of these isotopes supplied for cancer treatment is as follows:—

Cobalt—60	—	1,40,000 curies
Iridium—192	—	10 curies
Caesium—137	—	2.25 curies
Iodine—131	—	100 curies

Sludge hygienisation research irradiator is meant for reduction of microbial load in Municipal Sewage sludge for safe disposal to the environment and is not used for the treatment of industrial effluents.

Joint exercise with Maldives

2648. SHRI K.R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry of External Affairs and the Coast Guard differ on the issue of joint exercise with Maldives as reported in "The Times of India" dated the 24th January, 1995;

(b) the reasons for which the Ministry of External Affairs want these exercises; and

(c) the reasons for which the Coast Guard is opposed to the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) There is no difference between the Ministry of External Affairs and the Coast Guard on the issue of joint exercise with Maldives. Such exercises are undertaken for improved coordination and training of personnel of both Coast Guards in life saving, environmental salvage and similar functions.